



Respect, Courage, Compassion, Friendship, Trust, Perseverance

Oracy Policy

POLICY

Agreed: TBR Oct 2026

Review: Oct 2028

Oracy is at the heart of all learning at St. John's C.E Primary School. Students are taught *to* and *through* talk to enable them to engage in both exploratory and presentational talk in a range of contexts.

As they progress throughout their time at school, students learn to develop, hone and reflect on their oracy skills: articulating their ideas, developing their understanding, and engaging with each other through speaking, listening and communication. This is supported by a culture which celebrates all forms of speaking, listening and communication, including accents, dialects and language varieties.

Our school community recognises and understands the importance of enacting a high-quality oracy education, and the impact that this can have on students' learning and development. Oracy underpins learning, and is essential for all students. Our sustained and wide-ranging oracy curriculum is therefore enacted from EYFS through to Year 6. Our aim is to enable students to improve their oracy skills so that they can all communicate effectively and confidently in a range of contexts and in front of any type of audience. We strive to develop spoken language skills through the taught curriculum, the hidden curriculum, playtimes and lunchtimes, extra-curricular activities and the whole ethos of the school.

Aims

- To ensure that oracy is at the heart of all teaching and learning at St. John's C.E Primary School
- To create opportunities for students to speak with confidence in different contexts and to different audiences
- Encourage respectful and productive relationships
- To ensure that students' oracy skills progress as they move through the school
- To nurture students' pride in their voices, creating opportunities for them to reflect on and share their own linguistic repertoires
- To provide a range of interventions and support for students with identified language needs

Our Mission Statement outlines our intent and vision for the school:

At St. John's C.E Primary school, we endeavour to provide opportunities for children to express themselves thoroughly and fairly. We aim to equip children with the tools to confidently showcase what they know, how they learn and detail their own thoughts and feelings. All staff are confident in leading discussion in classrooms, no matter the topic or circumstance, and talk is constructive, fruitful and plentiful. Consistency in oracy and talk will be evident and regular CPD in this area will maintain the expectations we have regarding speaking and learning.

Objectives

For students:

- To develop oracy skills to be able to communicate effectively in a range of contexts; understanding others, being understood and expressing themselves effectively.
- To develop oracy skills to be able to express their feelings, articulate their views, engage with others and deepen their understanding through talk .
- To be open-minded, to value the contribution of others and to take account of their views.
- To appreciate the diversity of languages, dialects and accents in the school and value the experience and contributions of children with a wide variety of linguistic backgrounds.

- To understand the progress they have made in their oracy skills throughout their time at school.

For parents and carers:

- To actively support St. John's C.E Primary School's vision for oracy, understanding the importance of oracy skills to thrive in school and life.
- To support students by discussing different subjects and areas of interest at home.

For teachers:

- To share and model high expectations for oracy for all students.
- To challenge linguistic prejudice and encourage students to recognise the richness and diversity of communication and language in their classrooms and communities.
- To ensure that oracy is at the heart of all teaching and learning activities.
- To teach oracy explicitly to all students, and provide them with opportunities to receive a range of oracy-specific feedback - from teachers and peers.
- To create a culture of talk where every voice is valued.

For SENCOs/ ALNCOs:

- To understand the universal offer that the high-quality oracy education at St. John's C.E Primary School provides all students.
- Identify intervention strategies, assess and monitor students with speech and language needs.
- Support students with additional needs to take a full and active part in spoken language activities at a level appropriate for their needs.
- Advise teachers how best to scaffold oracy for specific students, and support them when setting targets for these students which are then worked on individually or in small groups.
- Provide specific intervention programmes for adults to work with individuals or groups of students specifically in the areas of speaking, listening and communication.
- Liaise and jointly plan with subject teachers to meet the individual needs of individual students.

For the leadership team:

- To actively raise the profile of oracy as a leading feature of all curriculum areas, ensuring that the oracy needs of every student are met through the curriculum.
- To ensure that the impact of an oracy education is monitored and shared with stakeholders, making it part of the school's regular evaluation schedule, to sustain the quality of oracy teaching and learning.
- To ensure that oracy is planned explicitly across the curriculum, ensuring breadth of opportunity and progression of oracy skills for all students.
- To be responsible for identifying where staff development and support is required, offering appropriate oracy professional development opportunities.
- To ensure that oracy standards, targets, provision and monitoring is embedded within School Development Plans.

For governors/ Trust executives:

- To understand the vision for oracy at St. John's C.E Primary School , and actively support this vision by attending oracy events, and participating in discussions that seek to support the implementation and development of the school's drive to enact a high-quality oracy education for all students.